Claims

1. Respirator for a person or animal comprising a tube assembly that is intended to be fed via the mouth and the pharynx towards the trachea and an inflatable cuff that is provided at the distal end of the tube assembly, the cuff being equipped to form a seal between the wall of the tube assembly and a wall of the pharynx when it is in the inflated state, the tube assembly having a first tube part and the tube assembly having a length suitable for bringing the distal end of the first tube part to the entry to the trachea while the proximal end of the tube assembly is outside the mouth, characterised in that the cuff has a distal cuff part intended to extend into the oesophagus and, in the inflated state, to close off the oesophagus, and in that the distal cuff part has a constriction zone which, in the inflated state, provides a constriction in the distal cuff part.

2. Respirator according to Claim 1, characterised in that the constriction zone has a length of 1 to 4 cm, in particular 1.5 to 3 cm, such as approximately 2 cm.

3. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the distal part of the cuff has, distal to the constriction zone, a section that is tubular in the inflated state.

4. Respirator according to Claim 3, characterised in that the tubular section has a length of 1.5 to 10 cm.

5. Respirator according to Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein the length of the tubular section is longer than approximately 2 cm and is preferably longer than approximately 3.5 cm.

6. Respirator according to one of Claims 3 - 5, wherein the length of the tubular section is shorter than approximately 8 cm and is preferably shorter than approximately 6 cm.

7. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tube assembly has a second tube part with a length suitable for introducing the distal end of the second tube part into the oesophagus whilst the proximal end of the second tube part is

outside the mouth.

8. Respirator according to Claim 7, characterised in that the cuff is provided around the distal end of the tube assembly and in that the distal end of the second tube part extends through the cuff in a sealed manner.

9. Respirator according to Claim 7 or 8, characterised in that the interior part of the first and second tube parts are separate from one another.

10. Respirator according to one of Claims 7 - 9, characterised in that the inside of the second tube part has a non-circular cross-sectional shape, such as an oval cross-sectional shape.

11. Respirator according to one of Claims 7 - 9, characterised in that the inside of the second tube part has a circular cross-sectional shape.

12. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a flexible stiffener that extends as far as the tip of the distal part of the cuff is provided in the distal part of the cuff.

13. Respirator according to Claim 8 - 12 in combination with at least one of Claims 7 - 11, characterised in that the second tube part runs through the flexible stiffener.

14. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the cuff, or at least a proximal part thereof, is so fitted asymmetrically on the tube assembly and also has such a shape that, when the proximal part of the cuff is in the inflated state in the pharynx, the proximal part of the cuff essentially fills the pharynx and pushes the distal orifice of the first tube part in front of the entry to the trachea.

15. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims with at least one of Claims 7 - 11, characterised in that the tube assembly has a curved shape and in that the distal orifice of the first tube part, viewed in the radial direction, is provided on the inside of the second tube part.

16. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the interior of the proximal part of the cuff is in fluid communication with the interior of the remainder of the cuff, such that, in the inflated state, the same pressure prevails throughout the cuff.

17. Respirator according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the part of the cuff that, in the inflated state, is located in the pharynx has a wedge-like shape with a greater volume proximally than distally, such that this part of the cuff located in the pharynx, in the inflated state, pushes the respirator towards the oesophagus.

18. Combination of a respirator according to one of the preceding claims, including at least one of Claims 7 - 11, and a probe, such as a stomach tube, duodenum tube or feeding tube, wherein the probe is suitable for insertion through the second tube.